

REGIONAL INFORMATION BULLETIN 2:

Early Literacy Mentor Coach

With this letter comes exciting news regarding Early Literacy Mentor Coaching roll-out plans and the new *Steps to Success* instructional materials. The Head Start Act, passed in 1998, identifies mentoring as a key strategy for professional development. Mentor Coaching is a powerful, research-based professional development model which embodies best practices for adult learning. Mentor Coaching addresses Head Start Performance Standards, promotes quality child and family services, and positive child outcomes. *Steps to Success: An Instructional Design for Early Literacy Mentor-Coaches in Head Start and Early Head Start* provides, thoughtful training in skills essential to Mentor Coaches while reviewing key concepts in early childhood language and literacy development for children from birth to five.

Two sets of *Steps to Success* materials have been sent to each Region 10 Head Start Grantee. Each set includes facilitator guides and mentor coach manuals for:

- ◇ Unit 1: Building Relationships to Promote Child Literacy Outcomes
- ◇ Unit 2: Observation of Staff and Analysis
- ◇ Unit 3: Reflective Practice
- ◇ Unit 4: Using Child Assessment Information to Guide Instruction

The set also includes:

- ◇ The Steps to Success Decision Makers Guide
- ◇ A Protégé's Journal
- ◇ Two Professional Development Plans
- ◇ DVDs containing Tutored Video Instruction to accompany Units 1-4

The *Steps to Success* curriculum incorporates a digital component to support training and ongoing development. The website www.step-net.org provides mentoring resources and online discussion groups as well as access to the STEPS-Notes newsletter.

Region 10 Head Start staff in collaboration with the Training and Technical Assistance (T/TA) Network wants each Grantee to get the most out of these professional development materials. As a first step, the Regional Office encourages each program to review the contents of *Steps to Success* and work through the Decision Makers Guide – a tool to help you make programmatic decisions about mentor-coaching.

In consideration of the wide variety of programs throughout Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington, Region 10 Head Start is working to individualize the roll-out for *Steps to Success* to best meet your program's distinct needs. The Early Learning and Literacy Content Specialist from the T/TA network will provide a regional teleconference this Spring to review the *Steps to Success* materials. Brief, introductory trainings have been and will continue to occur during state/ local conferences, on-site visits and cluster trainings with Grantees who have requested T/TA services.

Grantees wanting more comprehensive training, either individually or in cluster meetings should contact their assigned T/TA Specialist and/or T/TA Early Learning and Literacy

Content Specialist. They are ready to assist your program in implementing the curriculum. Complete coverage of the *Steps to Success* materials is estimated to take 40 hours. In addition, the T/TA network has created a prototypic syllabus that can be used to collaborate with state and local colleges to offer credit for the longer, more comprehensive trainings with *Steps to Success*. Another possible training model would be a, “Training-for-Facilitators”, event. Finally, programs can choose a self-study option and work through the *Steps to Success* guides and tutored video instruction at their own pace.

There may be one specific approach or a combination of approaches, which fit each program. The Regional Office urges Grantees to review these materials and then consider their staff’s needs along with program leadership teams. The Regional Office, through the T/TA Network, will be here to offer support and guidance with planning, training, and implementing of this useful professional development and literacy tool.

Sincerely,



Terry Elofson
T/TA Program Manager

Sincerely,



Nancy Gigoux Hutchins, Ph.D.
Associate Regional Administrator

Enclosures: STEPS-Notes Issue 4
 Overview of Steps to Success Unit 1-4